.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-172-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC67956

PROJECT NAME: Pipeline for Eureka 8814A and Double Willow 8607A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 3 S., R. 97 W.,
Sec. 14, NE¼SW¼, SE¼.

APPLICANT: EnCana Gathering Services (USA), Inc.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional):

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: EnCana has applied for a surface or buried 6-inch to an 8-inch pipeline.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the construction of a 6-inch up to an 8-inch surface pipeline with the possibility of it being buried at a later date, to connect the Eureka 8814A and the Double Willow 8607A to an existing pipeline system. A permanent right-of-way width will be 30 feet with extra work width of 30 feet (which will be reclaimed immediately upon completion of the project). The length is approximately 29,877 feet encompassing 20.58 acres more or less. Standard pipeline construction methods and equipment will be used.

This project will be authorized under Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185).

No Action Alternative: The pipeline would not be built.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: None

NEED FOR THE ACTION: An application has been received requesting a right-of-way for a pipeline connection for the two wells. This pipeline is needed in order to handle production of oil and gas from these wells.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action. During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to pre-construction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No increase in dust would occur.

Mitigation: None

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The entire pipeline route has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level for a number of different projects (Grand River Institute 1980, Compliance Dated 7/16/1980, Conner and Davenport 2004, Compliance Dated 8/18/2004, Reed and Horn 1992, Compliance Dated 3/13/92, Pfertsh 1998, Compliance Dated 3/25/1998, Pennefather-O'Brien 2004, Compliance Dated 5/27/2004) with one site and four isolated finds located in the area of proposed disturbance

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will probably adversely affect all four isolated finds identified in the inventory reports. The project also has the potential to adversely affect the one site (5RB 4808) if mitigation measures are not strictly adhered to.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative

Mitigation: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. Site 5RB 4808 must be avoided by all construction, operation and maintenance actions for the pipeline. If the site cannot be avoided by all actions then evaluative testing must be completed to enable the BLM to make a more supportable determination of the sites significance under NHRP eligibility criteria.

4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring the protection and integrity of the site against acts of vandalism. Should the site be vandalized the holder shall be responsible for mitigative actions such as data recovery or other site protection measures as the Authorized Officer shall specify.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The noxious weed houndstongue occurs in the project area and has potential to invade and proliferate on areas of earthen disturbance. The alien invasive species, cheatgrass also occurs in the project area in disturbed, unrevegetated areas

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There is potential for noxious weed establishment and proliferation at the road crossings where the pipeline will be buried.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The applicant will revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed mix #6 and monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post-disturbance. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Non-game populations associated with these ranges are widespread and common throughout sagebrush, pinyon-juniper and mountain shrub habitats in this Resource Area (e.g., green-tailed and spotted towhee, vesper and lark sparrows). There are no specialized or narrowly endemic species known to occupy the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although this action would represent an incremental and longer term reduction in the extent of sagebrush, pinyon-juniper and mountain shrub habitat available for migratory bird breeding functions, implementation of this project would have no measurable influence on the abundance or distribution of breeding migratory birds even at the smallest landscape scale.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Incremental reductions of sagebrush, pinyon-juniper and mountain shrub rangelands would not occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: None.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: Hazardous or solid wastes are not expected to be a part of the affected environment. However, these materials my accidentally be introduced in the environment through the implementation of the proposed action. Fuel, oil, grease, and antifreeze are all associated with vehicles and fire suppression equipment associated with implementing the proposed action and would only be introduced into the environment because of equipment failure. Minute loss of these materials through normal operation of equipment, maintenance and fueling procedures are not considered spills. Spills are generally defined as the loss of large quantities of these materials into the environment and are determined to be a spill on a case-by-case basis.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: For any given accident or incident involving hazardous materials, consequences will be dependent on the volume and nature of the incident and material released. Short term impacts such as contaminations of soils, vegetation, and surface water could occur.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous wastes would be introduced into the environment under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Water quality standards and guidance for drainages within the Lower Colorado River Basin are included in CDPHE-WQCC Regulation No. 37 (2004a). The proposed action is in Scandard Gulch and Willow Creek identified in segment 16, which is all tributaries to Piceance Creek, from the source to the confluence with the White River. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. The State has classified this segment as a "Use Protected" reach. Its designated beneficial uses are: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 2000/100 ml, and 630/100 ml E. coli. This segment retained its Recreation Class 2 designation after sufficient evidence was received that a Recreation Class 1a use was unattainable.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The primary potential water quality impact would be from additional sediment resulting from the proposed pipeline construction. Removal of vegetative cover results in the potential for increased soil erosion near newly disturbed areas. Runoff-producing storm events could increase sediment loads in

ephemeral channels. Depending on the soils affected, salt content in the sediment may also degrade water quality.

Depleting the vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause short-term erosion problems and increased sedimentation to the White River watershed until successful mitigation has been implemented and proven to be successful. The magnitude of these impacts is dependent on the amount of surface disturbance and climatic conditions during the time the soils are exposed to the elements.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the pipeline would not be built

Mitigation: No additional mitigation is needed.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Water quality in the stream segments within the area of the proposed action meet the criteria established in the standard. With successful reclamation, the proposed action would not change this status.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's), flood plains, riparian or wetland systems, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened, endangered or sensitive plant and animal species exist within the area affected by the proposed action. Furthermore, there is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on whether riparian or wetland habitats would meet the Public Land Health Standard. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The pipeline construction occurs within seven soil units inventoried by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Soil units, names, and characteristics are listed in the following table (SCS, 2004):

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
15	Castner channery loam	5-50%	Pinyon-Juniper woodlands	<2	Medium to rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20
33	Forelle loam	3-8%	Rolling Loam	<2	Medium	Moderate	>60
36	Glendive fine sandy loam		Foothills Swale	2-4	Slow	Slight	>60
40	Hagga loam		Swale Meadow	2-8	Slow	Slight	>60
43	Irigul-Parachute complex	12-45%5-30%	Loamy Slopes/Mountain Loam	<2	Rapid	Slight to high	10-20
82	Silas loam	0-8%	Mountain Swale	<2	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60
87	Starman-Vandamore complex	5-40%	Dry Exposure/Dry Exposure	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20

Typically, as much as 2% of the surface is covered with stones. The surface layer is a grayish brown channery loam about 5 inches thick. The next layer is a very channery loam about 4 inches thick. Sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. The soils are calcareous throughout. Revegetation limitations for these soil types include an arid climate and droughty soil condition.

There are five areas intersected by the pipeline that have been identified as Controlled Surface Use – 1 (CSU-1), which indicates problems such as fragile soil, high salt concentrations, excessive erosion, or steep slopes. Of the five areas, only one is on a slope that is greater than 35 percent. CSU-1 stipulation description states, surface-disturbing activities will be allowed only after the operator submits an engineered construction/ reclamation plan and approved by the Area Manager. The plan would address how soil productivity would be restored and how surface runoff would be treated to avoid accelerated erosion and mass wasting. Exceptions would be granted if after environmental analysis the proposed action did not fit the criteria identifying fragile soils on slopes greater than 35% or the disturbance would not result in any long-term decrease in site productivity or increased erosion.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: General impacts associated with pipeline development include but are not limited to, loss of topsoil, soil compaction and possible increase in sediment loads to the White River. The primary surface-disturbing impact would be a potential increase in sediment transport from runoff events after the protective vegetative cover has been removed.

Because pipeline is in an area that has been identified as CSU-1, it is important to recognize the increased erosion potential and designing BMPs which will minimize this erosion. The only segment of pipeline on a slope greater than 35% is located in the SENW Section 14, T3S R97W. This section will need to be a surface line from the top to bottom of the slope.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts are not anticipated from not permitting the proposed action.

Mitigation: On the pipeline route, T3S R97W sec 14, SENW will have to be a surface pipeline.

When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition, straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Soils within the area of the proposed action meet the criteria established in the standard for upland soils. With successful reclamation, the proposed action would not change this status.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The principal plant communities affected by the proposed action include basin big sagebrush (Foothill swale ecological site), mountain browse (brushy loam ecological site).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed project will create significant earthen disturbance throughout the route. If the proposed mitigation is applied there will be no significant negative impact to the affected plant communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The applicant will recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed mix #6 and monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post-disturbance. Waterbars should be constructed along the entire length of the right of way to the minimum BLM standard. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Upland plant communities in the project area currently meet the Standard and will continue to after implementation of this project.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There is no aquatic wildlife within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): There is no aquatic wildlife within the project area. Thus, this standard is not applicable.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The majority of the pipeline corridor follows an existing road and an existing pipeline right-of-way. The habitat present varies along the length of the pipeline from young pinyon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush, to a mountain shrub community consisting of serviceberry, bitterbrush, Gambel oak and various forbs. The project area is largely unsuitable for nesting raptors except for in the vicinity of well pad #E-P027 (Section 35), which contains a more mature pinyon-juniper component. Most of the project area falls within a winter concentration area for elk. While the project does not fall within severe winter range for mule deer, several miles of access road across private land does fall within severe winter range for mule deer.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The construction of this project will result in the removal of approximately 21 acres of pinyon-juniper, sagebrush and mountain shrub habitat if this pipeline is buried. Increased activity related to commercial oil/gas development can be expected in the form of short-term disturbance during construction as well as long-term disturbance from increased traffic and noise.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No net loss of habitat would occur at this time and place. Short-term and long-term disturbance would not occur.

Mitigation: Parts of the access road fall within designated severe winter range for mule deer. As a condition of approval, the BLM may preclude development activities for up to 60 days from December 1 through April 30. Local weather conditions will dictate whether this condition is in effect or not. It is the responsibility of EnCana to contact the BLM to determine whether this condition is in effect prior to initiating surface disturbing activities.

A current raptor survey must be obtained from the BLM for the portion of the pipeline in the vicinity of well pad #E-P027 if construction activities for this pipeline will occur between February 1 and August 15. It is the responsibility of EnCana to contact the BLM or a third party contractor to obtain a current survey.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): This project would not jeopardize the viability of any animal population. It would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale. This public land health standard will thus be met.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management		X	
Geology and Minerals		X	
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed pipeline route is located in an area mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition 1 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Excavation into the underlying bedrock to bury the pipeline has the potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. All exposed outcrops of the Uinta formation must be examined by an approved paleontologist with the results of the examination and any recommended mitigation submitted to the BLM prior to the initiation of construction.

2. If, at any time, it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to bury the pipeline then a paleontological monitor shall be required.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

The project area most resembles a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If the action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists.

With the introduction of new pipelines and roads, an increase of traffic could be expected increasing the likelihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCE

Affected Environment: The proposed action is within a VRM class III area. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If the proposed pipeline is left on the surface, it will be virtually unseen in the surrounding landscape due to it's relatively small size and typically dark color; therefore, any modifications will be unseen to the casual observer, and VRM III objectives will be met. Furthermore, any disturbed vegetation will return making the action virtually unnoticeable within a period of a few years. If the pipeline is buried, vegetation and soil will be removed. By removing the vegetation and soil, a strong linear feature will be introduced which is not represented in the surrounding viewshed. However, as vegetation returns the pipeline right-of-way will not be obvious to the casual observer and in addition, there are no key observation points from which the project may be viewed. VRM class III management objectives will continue to be met.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impact on visual resources.

Mitigation: Remove as little vegetation as possible during construction. Do not paint exposed pipeline, allow for natural oxidation.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of oil and gas activities are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED

Conner, Carl E. and Barbara J. Davenport
2004 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report for a Proposed 8.0 Mile-long Pipeline/Access Route and 40-acre Bloc for the Compressor Option #2 Area for EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Grand River Institute
1980 Cultural Resources Inventory Report on Approximately Fourteen Miles of the Proposed DeBeque Pipeline Project #80-80 for Rocky Mountain Natural Gas Co., Inc. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Pennefather-O'Brien, Elizabeth and Tracy Hall
2004 EnCana Oil and Gas (USA): Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Scandard Gulch Access, and the Three Proposed Well Pads (Double Willow 8609C, Eureka 8813A, and Eureka 8804B), Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

Pfertsh, Jack E.
1998 Cultural Resource Inventory of Access Roads, Centerline Realignments, and Pipeyards Associated with the Planned Transcolorado Gas Transmission Project Western Colorado and Northwestern New Mexico. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado.

Reed, Alan D, Jonathan C. Horn
1992 Cultural R3esource Inventory of the Planned Transcolorado Natural Gas Pipeline Western Colorado and Northwestern New Mexico: A report of the 1991 Field Season. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Carol Hollowed	P&EC	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Carol Hollowed	P&EC	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O'Mara	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Carol Hollowed	P&EC	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Carol Hollowed	P&EC	Soils
Carol Hollowed	P&EC	Vegetation
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Carol Hollowed	P&EC	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Carol Hollowed	P&EC	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Chris Ham	ORP	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2004-172-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. Site 5RB 4808 must be avoided by all construction, operation and maintenance actions for the pipeline. If the site cannot be avoided by all actions then evaluative testing must be completed to enable the BLM to make a more supportable determination of the sites significance under NHRP eligibility criteria.

4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring the protection and integrity of the site against acts of vandalism. Should the site be vandalized the holder shall be responsible for mitigative actions such as data recovery or other site protection measures as the Authorized Officer shall specify.

5. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

6. In T. 3 S., R. 97 W., Section 14, SE¼NW¼, the pipeline will have to be laid on the surface.

7. When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff.

8. The applicant will recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed mix #6 and monitor the project area for a minimum of three years post-disturbance. Waterbars should be constructed along the entire length of the right of way to the minimum BLM standard. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.

Native Seed Mix # 6	Lbs/PLS
Bluebunch wheatgrass (Secar)	2
Slender wheatgrass (Primar)	2
Big bluegrass (Sherman)	1
Canby bluegrass (Canbar)	1
Mountain brome (Bromar)	2

9. Parts of the access road fall within designated severe winter range for mule deer. As a condition of approval, the BLM may preclude development activities for up to 60 days from December 1 through April 30. Local weather conditions will dictate whether this condition is in effect or not. It is the responsibility of EnCana to contact the BLM to determine whether this condition is in effect prior to initiating surface disturbing activities.

10. A current raptor survey must be obtained from the BLM for the portion of the pipeline in the vicinity of well pad #E-P027 if construction activities for this pipeline will occur between February 1 and August 15. It is the responsibility of EnCana to contact the BLM or a third party contractor to obtain a current survey.

11. All exposed outcrops of the Uinta formation must be examined by an approved paleontologist with the results of the examination and any recommended mitigation submitted to the BLM prior to the initiation of construction.

12. If, at any time, it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to bury the pipeline then a paleontological monitor shall be required.

13. Remove as little vegetation as possible during construction. Do not paint exposed pipeline, allow for natural oxidation.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff every five years.

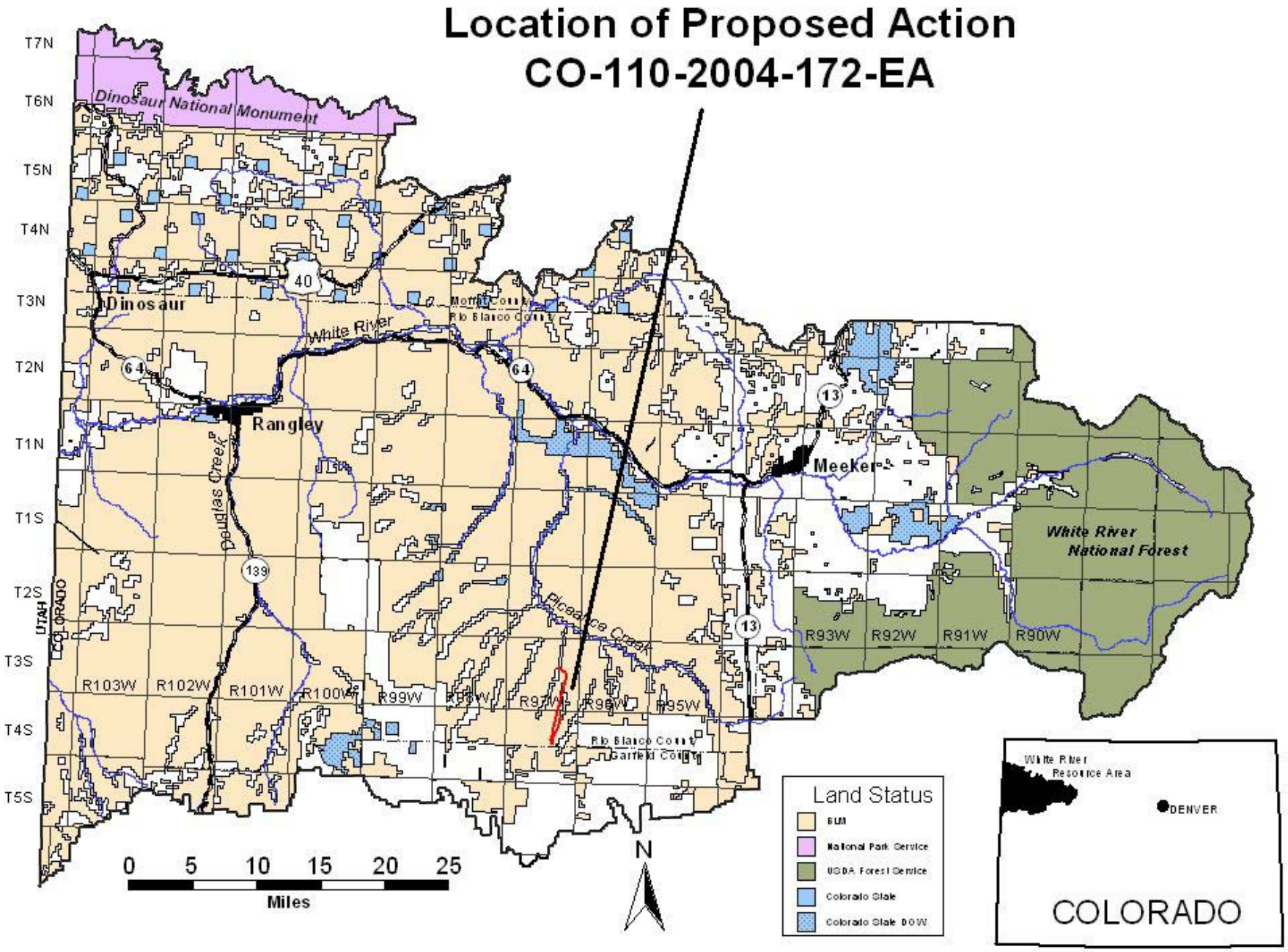
NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline P. Hallowed 9/30/04

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Grant M Paine
for Field Manager 9/30/2004

DATE SIGNED:

ATTACHMENTS: Location map of the proposed action.


Location of Proposed Action
CO-110-2004-172-EA
T7N
T6N
T5N
T4N
T3N
T2N
T1N
T1S
T2S
T3S
T4S
T5S
Dinosaur National Monument
Dinosaur
Rangley
Meeker
White River
Douglas Creek
Piceance Creek
Moffat County
Rio Blanco County
Garfield County
UTAH
COLORADO
40
64
139
13
White River National Forest
R103W
R102W
R101W
R100W
R99W
R98W
R97W
R96W
R95W
R93W
R92W
R91W
R90W
0 5 10 15 20 25
Miles
N
Land Status
BLM
National Park Service
USDA Forest Service
Colorado State
Colorado State DOW
White River Resource Area
DENVER
COLORADO